

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 167324

14

ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SIG-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 MC-02 ACDA-10 IO-13 /092 R

DRAFTED BY AF/I:DWKEOGH:JK

APPROVED BY AF/I:WHLEWS

AF:JJBLAKE

----- 032477

R 070047Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

UNCLAS STATE 167324

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XA, US

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON POST STORY ON US INVOLVEMENT IN
AFRICAN ARMS RACE

1. HERewith FOR YOUR INFORMATION ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF JULY 6
WASHINGTON POST PAGE ONE STORY BY DAVID B. OTTOWAY,
"US GETS INTO AFRICAN ARMS RACE."

2. STORY DATED ADDIS ABABA CLAIMS US IS JUMPING
HEAD-ON INTO ARMS RACE NOW UNDERWAY IN BLACK AFRICA,
WITH PLANS TO PROVIDE MORE THAN \$300 MILLION IN WEAPONS
TO 3 COUNTRIES FACING HOSTILE SOVIET-BACKED NEIGHBORS,
ANNOUNCED PURPOSE OF "NEW POLICY" IS TO BOLSTER ALLIES
AND COUNTER EXPANDING SOVIET INFLUENCE IN AFRICA FOLLOWING
ANGOLAN CIVIL WAR.

3. STORY POINTS TO SERIOUS RISK OF US CONFRONTATION WITH
USSR OVER DJIBOUTI WHICH SAID TO BE OF "ENORMOUS VALUE"
TO RIVALS ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA, BUT OF UNDETERMINED IM-
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 167324

PORTANCE TO US. OTTOWAY ALSO MENTIONS "DEEP PROBLEMS IN

RELATIONS" BETWEEN US AND ETHIOPIA. CLAIMS ETHIOPIA
STRIVING TO ESTABLISH CREDIBILITY AS MARXIST REGIME AND

EMBARRASSED BY CONTINUED MILITARY DEPENDENCE ON
WASHINGTON.

4. OTTOWAY LISTS 3 SEPARATE ARMS DEALS AMOUNTING
TO \$325 MILLION WITH ETHIOPIA, KENYA AND ZAIRE. ACCORD-
ING STORY, ETHIOPIA SCHEDULED TO OBTAIN \$175-200 MILLION
WORTH OF ARMS BY END OF FY 77. KENYA HAS CONTRACTED TO
BUY 12 SUPERSONIC JET AIRCRAFT WORTH \$75 MILLION. ZAIRE
REPORTED NEGOTIATING FOR \$50 MILLION OF ARMORED VEHICLES,
ANTI-TANK WEAPONS AND C-130 AIRCRAFT.

5. OTTOWAY SAYS US OFFICIALS CITE SOVIET ARMS BUILD-UP
IN SOMALIA, UGANDA AND ANGOLA AS BASIS FOR AMERICAN ARMS
SALES TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES. HE NOTES THAT ALL 3
RECIPIENTS HAVE ARMED FORCES FAR INFERIOR TO THOSE OF
THEIR RIVALS. ON THE OTHER HAND, OTTOWAY STATES THAT
"MOST WESTERN MILITARY EXPERTS" DOUBT THAT REAL STRENGTH
OF AFRICAN ARMIES CAN BE CALCULATED BY COUNTING TANKS
AND AIRCRAFT. AS IMPORTANT ARE TRAINING, LOGISTICS AND
DISCIPLINE, WHERE MOST ARE WEAK. OTTOWAY CLAIMS THAT
LATTER ARE BIGGEST PROBLEMS FACING ZAIRE AND ETHIOPIA. HE
QUESTIONS WHETHER NEW EQUIPMENT FOR THE 3 COUNTRIES IS
REAL ANSWER.

6. ARTICLE CONCLUDES WITH REVIEW OF PROBLEMS BETWEEN
ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA, ESPECIALLY OVER DJIBOUTI, AND CON-
FLICT BETWEEN UGANDA AND KENYA. IMPLICATION IS THAT
INCREASES IN US ARMS FLOW TO THESE THREE COUNTRIES WILL
INCREASE RISK OF US INVOLVEMENT IN INTER-AFRICAN CON-
FLICTS. ROBINSON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, SALES, ARMS, ANTICOMMUNIST
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE167324
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DWKEOGH:JK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760261-0036
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760783/aaaacvah.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: schwenja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 FEB 2004 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <09 AUG 2004 by schwenja>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WASHINGTON POST STORY ON US INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICAN ARMS RACE
TAGS: PFOR, PARM, XA, US, WASHINGTON POST, (OTTOWAY, DAVID B)
To: AF POSTS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006